

Observer.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1904.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

THE ALDEN REUNION.

Tribe of John and Priscilla Invades Plymouth Today.

The streets of old Plymouth are trodden today by numerous descendants of John and Priscilla Alden. They come from everywhere. Massachusetts of course, has the largest representation, but the other New England states, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and California have all sent sons and daughters to this gathering of the

These latter-day pilgrims may imagine themselves walking in the same paths wherein walked the first pair of

lovers in New England's history, breathing the same air, that they breathed, gazing upon the same sea that they gazed upon. The story of the courtship of John Alden will never grow old so long as there lingers a spark of sentiment in the human breast.

Sometimes one cannot help wondering what niche John Alden would have occupied in history had he not cut out Myles Standish. Perhaps he would have passed merely as one of the hundred and odd passengers of the good ship Mayflower—a name and nothing more. But John was a great "opportunist." He saw his chance and seized it, aided by the encouragement thrown out by the demure but artful Priscilla. John Alden, however, was faithful to his friend; he did not enter the lists until the maiden had clearly shown him that Myles hadn't a ghost of a show. But Priscilla, bless her soul, hadn't the slightest idea of taking a grim old warrior for a husband, when a nice, good-looking young fellow like John was still in the market. She wanted John, and she got him.

Just what proportion of truth and fiction envelopes the lives of John Alden and his wife we probably shall never know. Mr. Longfellow didn't always stick closely to facts when a tale could be embellished by drawing on the imagination. We know, of course, that the couple didn't make their wedding journey with the bride seated on a white bull, for the very reason that no cattle had been imported into the colony at that time. Still, there is enough of romance left undisputed to keep the story ever fresh and of vital interest to the thousands of Aldens yet unborn.

The members of the kindred began to flock in on the early morning trains. It was their fourth annual reunion, and at 10 o'clock the formal exercises opened in the Pilgrimage church. The program was as follows:

Address of welcome, with outline of historic spots hereabout, by Hon. William T. Davis of Plymouth.

Mr. Davis's speech was in part as follows: "As a native of Plymouth and one of its older citizens, as well as a descendant of the Pilgrims, the pleasant duty has devolved on me to welcome to Plymouth Rock the sons and daughters of John and Priscilla. It is unnecessary to mention the family name of your ancestors, for in all the world only one John and Priscilla are known. In the Pilgrim drama, enacted nearly 300 years ago, they performed an interesting part.

"In the picture of Pilgrim scenes, with its dark shades of suffering and death and sorrow, the romance of John and Priscilla sheds on the canvas a sweet and mellow light. While the orator and historian recount the graver scenes of Pilgrim days, the painter and poet find in that romance inspiration for their brush and pen.

"As long as Pilgrim history shall be read, no brighter page will be found than that illumined by the story of John and Priscilla.

"But not in romance alone was Alden a conspicuous member of the Plymouth colony. As early as 1627 he was selected with Allerton, Bradford, Brewster, Howland, Prence, Standish and Winslow to become responsible for the payment of £1000 to obtain a release from the Merchant adventurers of London of their interest in the property of the colony. In 1632 he was chosen a member of the board of assistants, a board similar in its functions to the present executive council

of Massachusetts, and, after repeated elections, in 1650, when more than 50 years of age, he was summoned to the office. As evidence of his efficiency in public service, with the exception of Nathaniel Morton, Nathaniel Clark and Samuel Sprague, the three secretaries of the colony, Thos. Hinckley, deputy-governor, and James Cadworth, another assistant, his official autographs are more numerous than those of any other member of the Plymouth colony.

"You have done well to hold your gathering in Plymouth. While it may be interesting to visit occasionally scenes associated with Alden's later life, gathered as you now are within 100 feet of his first Pilgrim home, you can almost feel his living presence. Here, too, as you walk in the ways of our town, you cannot fail to realize that you are treading the sands once pressed by Pilgrim feet. On the hill by the sea, with your vision bounded by the horizon where rose the sun which greeted Pilgrim eyes, you may see in imagination the Mayflower after her perilous voyage, resting like a weary sentinel in the quiet waters of our bay. Here, too, you may visit the sites of those seven cottages with walks of plank, with roofs of thatch and windows of paper, which in the terrible winter of 1620 sheltered the living, and from whose humble portals were carried to their graves the bodies of the dead. And here, if you will give attentive ear, you may listen to the songs of joy and praise which that little band of holy men and women sang as they landed on this desert shore.

"To these hallowed scenes I welcome you today. You are not gathered here to boast of your lineage, but to acknowledge the duty imposed on you by your Pilgrim descent. The blood of the Pilgrims flowing in your veins must become pale and languid unless you as their descendants, and each generation after you, shall add to it something to preserve its purity and strength. In order to do this let us listen to the lessons they taught. In all Christian history since the Sermon on the Mount no grander lesson can be found than that in the words of Bradford in answer to the remonstrances of his family at the opening of his career, words which illustrate and explain the whole Pilgrim movement: 'To keep a good conscience and walk in the way prescribed by God in His holy word is a thing which I prefer before you all, and before life itself. With this word of welcome, Mr. President, my pleasant duty is performed.'

Address, "Our Debt to John Alden, and How to Pay It," Rev. E. C. Bass, D. D., of Providence, R. I.

Reading of a paper, "Call to Arms," Mrs. Harriet C. Fielding of East Orange, N. J.

Address, "My Visit to Standish Halls, Lancashire, England," Rev. Marcus Alden Tolman of Bethlehem, Penn.
Greeting, from Mrs. Marion Long-

ellow O'Donoghue of Washington, D. C., a niece of the poet.

Reading of a paper, "My Grandmother's Parlor," Mrs. J. M. Seaver of Taunton.

Singing, by Mrs. C. C. Farnham of Randolph.

Piano solo, by Miss Priscilla Alden of Hyde Park.

Recitation, by Miss Ruth Alden of Hyde Park, dressed in colonial costume.

Readings, by Elmore P. Haskins of New Bedford.

Cornet solos, by Milo Burke of Brockton, Mrs. Louise Dunham Alden of Brockton, accompanist.

At 1 o'clock a shore dinner including Duxbury clams, was served in Bagnell chapel.

This afternoon the visitors are sight-seeing.

The special train which left Boston this morning at 8.40 will return by way

of the South shore at 4.45, making a stop of 30 minutes at the old Alden homestead near the station in

Among those in attendance at the gathering are the following: Wm. Alden Blossom, Mrs. C. A. Vose, Mrs. Edward T. Barker, Boston; Mrs. S. M. Bray, South Boston; Mrs. Lucy Bass Littlefield, Mrs. Ella V. Thayer, Dorchester; Grace L. Ford, Neponset; Elizabeth Alden Swazey, Milton; Mrs. S. F. Frye, Martin Kingman, Brookline; Mrs. M. E. F. Brett, Cambridge; Nathaniel F. Hunt, Arthur W. Newcomb, Charles A. French, Louis Bass, Quincy; Mrs. Wm. H. Swanton, Ada Gray White, Newton Centre; O. B. Alden, Miss Grace Crafts Alden, Waltham; Amasa Alden, Dedham; Mrs. Flora S. Matthewson, Mrs. Sarah E. Saunders, South Braintree; Charles L. Alden, Hyde Park; Mrs. Marion B. Babcock, Walpole; Clara A. Tollman, Elmer J. Stickney, Randolph; Carrie J. Moran, Franklin; Frederic Endicott, Canton; Mr. and Mrs. Austin M. Sweet, Mrs. Wm. H. Alden, Mrs. Kate B. Alden Briggs, Norton; Mrs. Effie M. Alden Lincoln, East Norton; Charles Gifford, Mrs. Arlene K. Gifford, Attle-

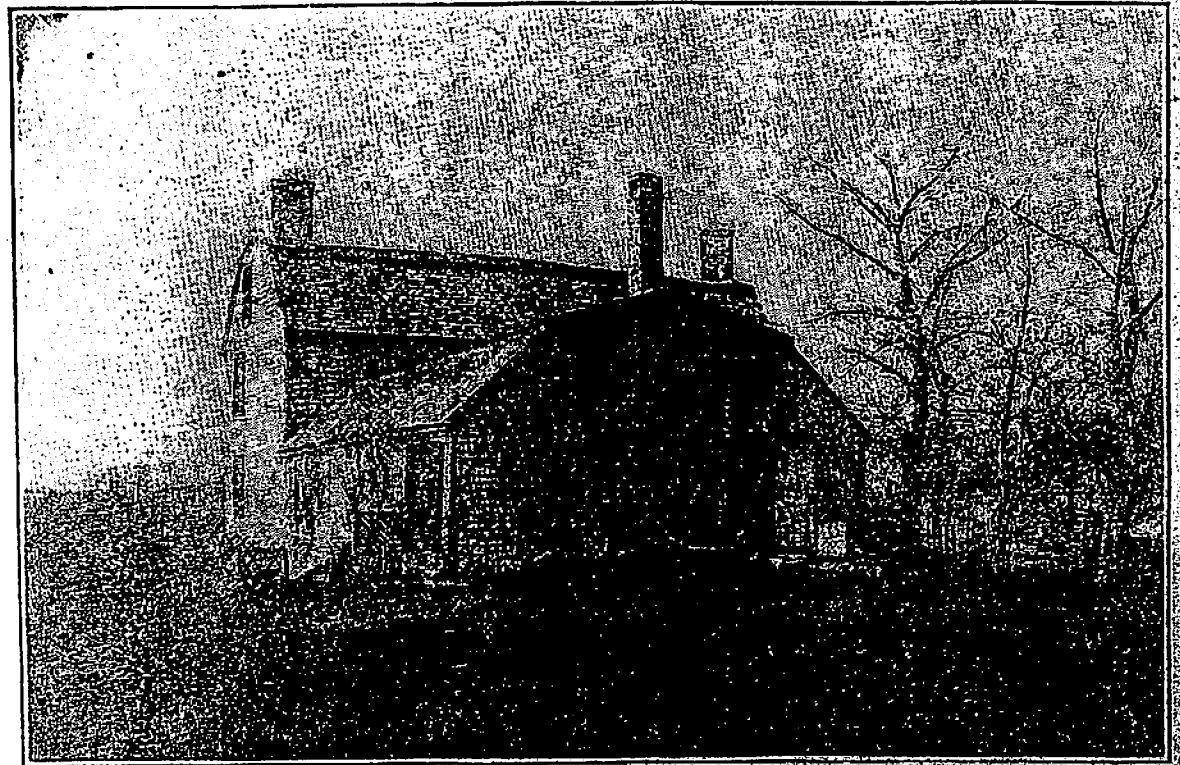
boro; Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Lane, Mrs. Carrie A. Kilburn, Chartley; Mrs. Helen A. Bartley, Norwood; Miss Ruth Alden, Readville; Mrs. Lyman Mason, Miss Mary A. Montgomery, Mrs. Q. S. Paige, Dr. John A. Hunt, Mrs. Jane M. Seaver, Taunton; George W. Alden, Charles A. Newhall, Mrs. L. F. Alden, Mrs. A. C. Lawrence, Alice M. Smith, Mrs. Ella J. Sullivan, Brockton; Willard F. Jackson, Campello; C. H. Stetson, S. Loren Keith, Bridgewater; Henry Gurney, Elmwood; Mrs. J. Esther Noyes, Abington; Miss H. M. S. Washburn, Mrs. E. B. Cushman, Miss Ruth H. Cushman, Miss A. Ella Alden, Chas. M. Thatcher, Middleboro; Olive F. Blackman, Brant Rock; George E. Burbank, Frank C. Burbank, Sandwich; Mrs. Matilda J. Swan, Lakeville; Herbert K. Haskins, E. P. Haskins, New Bedford; Mrs. Harriet A. S. Fogg, Lynn; Mrs. Amanda C. Huston, Lowell; Parkman C. Denney, Leicester; S. E. Alden, Worcester; E. A. Lester, Highlandville; Mrs. D. L. Bodfish, Palmer; Adin Alden, Springfield; Rev. E. C. Bass, Providence, R. I.; A. A. Alden, Bristol, R. I.; Dr. John H. Clark, Amherst, N. H.; Miss Frances D. Alden, Miss Ida F. Holland, West Lebanon, N. H.; Mrs. Mate David, Claremont, N. H.; Lyman Martin Alden, Farmington, Me.; D. V. Raymond, New York city; Mrs. David Mears, Albany, N. Y.; Rev. Wm. J. Tilley, Newark, N. J.; Rev. Marcus Alden Tolman, Bethlehem, Penn.; E. M. Tilley, Berkeley, Va.; Mrs. Maria Freeman Gray, San Francisco, Cal.

The officers of the association are as follows: President, George W. Alden, Brockton; vice-presidents, John W. Alden, Duxbury; George A. Alden, Boston; A. E. Alden, Boston; Jared F. Alden, Middleboro; Ralph P. Alden, Springfield; secretary, Mrs. A. H.

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THE ALDEN REUNION.
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Sweet, Norton; treasurer, Charles L. Alden, Hyde Park; committee on membership, Mrs. A. H. Sweet, Norton; Mrs. Annie W. Howard, Randolph; Charles L. Alden, Hyde Park; committee on genealogy and records, Charles L. Alden, Hyde Park; A. Elia Alden, Middleboro; Ebenezer Alden, Campello; Edwin S. Crandon, Cambridge; A. E. Alden, Boston; committee on general arrangements, Geo. W. Alden, Brockton; John W. Alden, Duxbury; Geo. A. Alden, A. E. Alden, Wm. Alden Blossom and Mrs. Edward T. Barker, Boston; Ralph P. Alden, Springfield; Mrs. A. H. Sweet, Norton; Chas. L. Alden, Hyde Park; Adelbert H. Alden, New York; John Alden, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Marian Longfellow O'Donoghue, Washington, D. C.; Frank A. Alden, Chicago; Franklin H. Alden, Cincinnati, O.; Mrs. Lucius Cook, East Whitman; Miss Susan Augustus Smith, Dorchester; George F. Washburn, Dedham. George F. Washburn is chairman of the reception committee and William Alden Blossom chairman of the social committee.



OLD ALDEN HOUSE, DUXBURY, MASS.